**Mr. K. M. Krishnappa Gowda.—**

May I know how soon this question will be inquired into?

**Dewan.—**

If the matter is not disposed of within a month from now, the members or the raiyats concerned may address the Government direct.

## REPRESENTATIONS—(*Continued*).

Subjects Nos. 10 and 11 were taken up together.

No. 10.—Exempting the levy of notice, *isthihar* and other fees on land revenue for a period of five years.

Messrs. D. S. Mallappa, Tiptur Taluk, and G. K. Mallappa, Tiptur Municipality.

No. 11.—Non-recovery of notice fees, etc.

Messrs. B. P. Basappa Setty and Ramappa Gowda, Chikmagalur Taluk, and Manje Gowda, Mudgere Taluk.

MR. D. S. MALLAPPA represented that owing to the continued economic depression, the raiyats were finding it hard to pay the land revenue assessment itself. Notwithstanding this, the collection of notice, distraint and *isthihar* fees had not yet been stopped. They were all extra taxes on the raiyats which they were unable to bear. He therefore said that it would be a great help if the recovery of all penal fees and also the upset price were waived for a period of five years.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that certain concessions had already been sanctioned by Government in the matter of levying these fees and given effect to.

MR. MALLAPPA pointed out that they were not reaching the people and that collections were being made as usual.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that orders had been issued directing the continuance, in deserving cases, of the concession regarding the waiving of sale proclamation and process fees and also interest on arrears and that if effect had not been given to the concessions in any place, the matter might be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner concerned.

MR. MALLAPPA said that the complaint was common to all the districts.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that he had just spoken to the Revenue Commissioner about the matter and

that he would see that it was dealt with very sympathetically.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY asked whether it was right to collect notice fees and other fines even when the arrears of assessment were either discharged or remitted in full.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that if the property had been attached and brought to sale first and then the arrears were paid, there could be no grievance if notice fees had been collected. If, on the other hand, the arrears were paid before the land was brought to auction, then the Deputy Commissioner was sure to show the concession.

MR. BASAPPA SETTY also complained that even for a refund of the notice fees, etc., the raiyats had to put in the application on a 12-anna stamp paper.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL made it clear that it was not necessary and that if cases where it had been insisted upon were brought to notice, the stamp fee would be refunded to the parties.

MESSRS. S. RAMAPPA and K. CHANNAVEERAPPA represented that the Revenue Manual provided that the penal fees could be refunded in deserving cases. As the term "in deserving cases" was misleading and as the grievance was common to all the districts, they prayed that the term be caused to be deleted, so that the concession might be applicable to all cases, at least till the seasonal conditions improved.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL announced that so far as the next year was concerned, if only one year's assessment was outstanding and if the same was paid before the auction was actually held, orders would be issued to the effect that notice fees should be refunded in all cases.

MR. T. MARIAPPA brought to notice that the chief complaint was that side by side with issue of notices, the lands were being attached. He also mentioned that several shanbhogues had been fined heavily for not issuing *isthihar* and *jafti* notices even in cases where the first *khist* was not paid, and suggested that this practice must be put an end to.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that the issue of notices was the duty of the shanbhogues. Members might ask for concessions being shown but not that the revenue process itself should be given up or suspended.

MR. MIR MAHOMED SAHIB represented that the budget had provided for such a large figure as Rs. 66,000 as income from notice fees, and at a time of economic depression like the present, this was indeed too high. He also brought to

notice that even though arrears were paid, payment of *malki* was insisted upon and requested that this should also be ordered to be waived in such cases.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the Revenue Commissioner would issue instructions to the subordinate officers that *malki* should not be levied if all the outstanding arrears were paid within a reasonable time after the land had been resumed to Government for want of bids.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA thereupon expressed the gratitude of the Assembly for the concessions announced by the Government. While doing so, he prayed that the present rates of fees (notice fee, *jafti* fee and auction fee) might be reduced by half as was recently done in Travancore. Secondly, he also suggested that in the matter of auctioning of lands, instead of doing it at once, it might be postponed till the end of the next official year, *i.e.*, the June following.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that postponement of attachment till the end of the collection season was an unreasonable request to make and that there would be no collection at all if that was accepted. As regards the reduction of notice fees by one-half, however, the Member promised to examine the request. He also added that the Deputy Commissioner would be given every discretion to remit *isthihar* and *jafti* fees whenever that concession was called for.

No. 27.—Abolition of *miras* to thoties and talaris.

Messrs. H. R. Krishnamurthyachar, Mulbagal Taluk, and L. Vema Reddy, Malur Taluk.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY explained that *miras* was being paid as a return for certain services rendered to the villagers individually as well as to the village as a whole by the thoties and talaris. In addition, they had to discharge the duties assigned to them by the Government and for this they were given Service Inams. But so far as services to the raiyats went, they were no longer being rendered by the village servants. He therefore suggested the abolition of the system of paying *miras* to them. As this subject had been coming up for the past 15 years, he prayed that some definite instructions be issued in the matter once for all.

MESSRS. B. L. BYANNA and M. S. LINGE GOWDA opposed the proposal on the ground that the thoties and talaris were rendering service to the villagers; and seeing that the *miras* paid to them by each raiyat was very insignificant in quantity, they thought that the existing *mamool* need not be interfered with.

THE DEWAN replied that Government were not in favour of any change in the existing system.

No. 14.—Reduction in the rate of interest on takavi and land improvement loans.

Messrs. Sannagundappa and Patel Bale Gowda, Kunigal Taluk.

MR. SANNAGUNDAPPA prayed that in view of the present economic condition of the country, the interest on takavi and land improvement loans might be reduced to 4 per cent. He said that only poor people had taken such loans and they deserved a sympathetic treatment.

THE DEWAN said that Government agreed that some relief was called for in that direction and that they would examine the question.

No. 28.—Punishment to revenue officers and village officials who are parties to fraud in revenue sales.

Mr. T. S. Venkappa, Sagar Taluk.

MR. T. S. VENKAPPA represented that there were several cases in which the revenue officers conspired with the village officials and managed to see that revenue sales were not held publicly. They were conducted secretly and much fraud was being practised on the raiyats. He also explained that in certain cases where lands had been hypothecated to money-lenders, the properties had been brought to sale without the knowledge either of the owners or of the creditors. He therefore prayed that the conduct of officials who were parties to such frauds should be severely noticed and exemplary punishment meted out to them.

MESSRS. JATHARE NAIK, PUTTASWAMI GOWDA, G. GIRIMAJI RAO and a large number of other members said that this complaint was becoming very general and brought to notice a number of instances in which officials had deliberately committed mischief in various ways. They requested that deterrent steps should be taken against the concerned officials so that such grave offences might be put down with a high hand.

THE DEWAN assured the members that cases of such misconduct would be very severely noticed.

No. 29.—Settlement of boundary marks disputes by the Survey Department.

Messrs. S. Venkataswami Gowda and L. Vema Reddy, Malur Taluk.

As boundary marks were fixed in the fields after measurement by the Survey Department, MR. S. VENKATASWAMI GOWDA prayed that disputes in respect of encroachments on private lands be also ordered to be settled by the

Survey Department on the basis of their measurements instead of the aggrieved parties having to take recourse to civil courts as at present.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that according to Section 127 of the Land Revenue Code, revenue officers were empowered to settle disputes in respect of boundary marks. Once the survey operations were over, the Survey Department had no authority to interfere again. If the dispute was in respect of the determination of the field boundaries, the revenue officers could deal with them. But if it was a case of encroachment involving the question of ownership, it would have to be settled by a competent civil court.

MR. S. VENKATASWAMI GOWDA observed that even after the settlement of boundary dispute, the parties concerned had to go to a civil court to get possession of the lands and that this was causing a lot of trouble to them.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that it ought to be so, because, while an Amildar could set right boundary marks, he was not competent to give possession of the land to any party.

MR. SANNAGUNDAPPA enquired what the value given to the fixing of the boundary marks by the Survey Department was, if the parties concerned had to go to civil courts and incur heavy expenditure.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY agreed that if the dispute was about the ownership of land, it had to be settled in a civil court. But he did not know why disputes about encroachments should not be settled by the Deputy Commissioner or even the Amildar.

THE DEWAN said that he would look into the matter.

No. 30.—Removal of *honge* leaves from the *amarai* trees.

Mr. P. Nagarajiah, Pavagada Taluk.

(Not taken up as the mover was not present when the subject was called.)

No. 31.—Levy of *neersardi*.

Messrs. D. S. Mallappa, Tiptur Taluk, and G. K. Mallappa, Tiptur Municipality.

(Not taken up as he mover was not present when the subject was called.)

No. 32.—Supplying patels with copies of *khetwar*, *hanchigepatti* and *khate*.

Messrs. Nanje Gowda, Channarayapatna Taluk, and Dyavappa Gowda, Belur Taluk.

MR. NANJE GOWDA moved that shanbhogues might be ordered to prepare and furnish copies of the *khetwar*, *hanchigepatti* and *khate* to patels in order to help them to

know what exactly was the amount payable by the raiyats so that revenue collections might be made easier.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA observed that if patels and shanbhogues were getting on amicably, there would have been no need for the representation. But it was not the case. The patels wanted copies of the *khetwar*, but shanbhogues merely gave them a list based on the *khate*; and on the basis of this, revenue collections could not be made satisfactorily. But the Amildars took the patels to task for poor collections and fined them heavily. Hence it was prayed that copies of *khetwar*, *hanchigepatti* and *khate* be ordered to be given.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that ordinarily shanbhogues allowed the *hanchigepatti* to remain with the patels. *Khetwar* and *khate* were however not of much use. He did not know why patels required *khetwar* for collection. Even if there were any difficulties felt by patels on this account, they would be obviated by the introduction of the Record of Rights.

Many members said that copies of only *khate* were being given to the patels and not of *hanchigepatti*.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that orders would be issued by the Revenue Commissioner that shanbhogues should make and give copies of *hanchigepatti* to the patels.

No. 33.—Grant of dry lands for *kumri* cultivation.

Messrs. Bagamane Deva Gowda, Chikmagalur Taluk and C. Subbanna Naik, Koppa Taluk.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA prayed that, as green manure was very much required for wet and garden lands in malnad places, dry lands adjoining such wet and garden lands be granted to raiyats for *kumri* cultivation.

MR. B. GOPALACHAR spoke in support of the representation.

MR. TUDKI RAMANNA GOWDA suggested that as such lands would not be made use of by the village community as a whole so long as minor forests were set apart for the purpose, they might as well be given away to individual raiyats who applied for them.

Another Member said that many people in the malnad districts were prepared to pay dry rates and purchase those lands for *kumri* cultivation. He requested that the request be sympathetically considered.

THE DEWAN replied that orders had already been issued for granting *kumri* lands in deserving cases.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA brought to notice that

the benefit of the orders was not actually reaching the raiyats.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL did not think so. He said that in all deserving cases, lands were being granted. If, however, there was any difficulty in particular cases and if they were brought to notice, necessary relief would be given.

No. 34.—Reduction of upset price fixed on coffee lands from Rs. 40 to Rs. 10 per acre.

Messrs. B. Dyavappa Gowda, Manjarabad Taluk; Dyavappa Gowda, Belur Taluk; and H. Basappa and K. Narasimha Setty, Arsikere Taluk.

MR. DYAVAPPA GOWDA represented that coffee lands were being brought to sale after taking a deposit of Rs. 10 per acre from the *darkhastdars* and disposed of subject to a minimum upset price of Rs. 40 per acre. On representations being made to the effect that this upset price was rather too high, Government were pleased to lower the same to Rs. 20 per acre. In these hard times, even this was too high and the price might therefore be fixed at Rs. 10 per acre as before.

MR. MIR MAHOMED pointed out that the same subject had been brought up on a number of occasions including the last session of the House. He prayed that the question be sympathetically viewed and a decision taken once for all.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that if coffee lands were not very much in demand, it was because the price of coffee was not ruling high just now. That was why the upset price of Rs. 40 per acre had not been reduced permanently. He however had no objection now to agree that Rs. 20 might be fixed as the usual price. But it was not possible for Government to further reduce it to Rs. 10.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY and many other members desired that the upset price should be reduced to Rs. 10.

THE DEWAN said that Government would again examine the question.

No. 35.—Reduction of coffee upset price.

Messrs. B. P. Basappa Setty and Aldur Ramappa Gowda, Chikmagalur Taluk; and Dharmapravartha M. L. Nagappa Setty, Special Interests.

(Same as subject No. 34 discussed above, hence not discussed separately.)

No. 36.—Exempting certain areca and cardamom plantations from *bagayet* assessment.

(Not taken up as the mover was not present.)

No. 37.—Reduction of upset price for coffee jungles.

(Same as subject No. 34.)

No. 38.—Abolition of irrigation cess in respect of lands on which wet crops are grown mainly by the aid of rain water.

Messrs. Mir Mahomed Sahib and Settara Siddappa, Tarikere Taluk, and V. R. Mudveeriah, Tarikere Municipality.

MR. MAHOMED SAHIB represented that the recovery of both wet assessment and irrigation cess in respect of lands on which wet crops were grown mainly with the help of rain water worked as a great hardship and requested that the recovery of irrigation cess in respect of such lands be done away with. He added that the irrigation cess was a double levy.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA pointed out that particularly in malnad, wet crops were not being raised with the aid of any irrigation work, and as such there was no justification for the levy of irrigation cess.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the subject had been discussed often and it was not possible to revise the orders already passed.

No. 39.—Abolition of irrigation cess in such of the taluks where it has been levied twice as a result of re-survey settlement.

Messrs. C. Subbanna Naik and Hosakoppa Krishna Rao, Koppa Taluk; and Bagamane Deva Gowda, Chikmagalur Taluk.

(Same as Subject No. 38 discussed above.)

No. 40.—Free grant of lands applied for by the members of the Banajara (Lambani) community without upset price or auction sale.

Mr. Jathare Naik.

MR. JATHARE NAIK represented that the lands given to the depressed classes at concession rates under the rules were neither useful nor cheap. The rich managed to secure the fertile lands either by offering a high upset price or by bidding high in auctions, and what was left over was practically useless for purposes of cultivation. He therefore prayed that lands applied for by these people be given free to them at the rate of ten acres for each family.

Another Member pointed out that by a series of manœuvres the shanbhogues were coming in the way of members of these communities getting useful lands. Even if they selected useful lands, the shanbhogues would bring in various difficulties and the lands finally granted would consist of mere ups and downs. So these people had so far not been able to enjoy the benefit of the concessions so graciously extended by Government.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that Government orders regarding grant of lands to depressed classes had been given effect to in a number of cases and once in every three months Government were getting a return of the lands

so granted. So it could not be said that lands were not being given to depressed classes at all. It might be that sometimes the particular land asked for by a member of the depressed classes was also applied for by somebody else. In such a case auctioning would become inevitable. However, orders would be issued that revenue officers should, as far as possible, give the depressed classes the particular lands which they would select.

No. 41.—Earmarking at least 200 acres of land in the Irwin Canal area for labourers.
Mr. P. Murugesam Pillay.

MR. P. MURUGESAM PILLAY prayed that at least 200 acres of land in the Irwin Canal zone be earmarked for being granted to labourers who would be available for work of any urgent nature when necessity for it arose.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the grant of lands to some of those who had participated in the Irwin Canal operations had already been approved.

No. 101.—Providing a separate building for the Intermediate College for Women at Bangalore.
Mrs. D. Sakamma, Special Interests.

MRS. D. SAKAMMA represented that at present the Intermediate College for Women was located in the High School itself. There were no separate or adequate play-grounds for the girls to take part in sports. She therefore prayed that a separate building with sufficient play-grounds attached to it be provided for the Intermediate College for Women at Bangalore.

MRS. KAMALAMMA DASAPPA supported the representation. She added that there were many buildings available which could be caused to be given for the location of the Intermediate College for Women. The present building was not commodious enough to enable the girls even to hold meetings.

MR. J. MAHOMED IMAM, in further supporting the representation, pointed out the difficulties now experienced by the location of the Intermediate College for Women in the High School itself. About three-fourths of the building was taken up by the High School and the remaining one-fourth alone was available for college purposes. This portion contained only 4 rooms, of which 2 rooms were occupied for office purposes and stores and only two rooms were actually available for the classes being held. There were not less than 60 to 70 girl students in the classes and so the accom-

modation was very inadequate. This subject had been discussed often in the University Senate but nothing could be done to overcome the difficulty for want of funds. Hence he requested Government to sympathetically consider the representation.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the matter was under consideration.

CAPT. Y. V. AYYA observed that the University was getting a large grant of about Rs. 10 lakhs and there was no necessity to give a further grant for this purpose.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that even if extra funds were required, they would be in the nature of capital grant and as such some special consideration would be justified. However, as stated already, the matter was engaging the attention of Government.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA requested that this question of a separate building for Women's Intermediate College at Bangalore should be considered independently and not mixed up with that of the transfer of the Mysore Women's College to Bangalore. He understood that this latter question was still open and that it had not been decided whether the College, if transferred to Bangalore, should be a first grade or a second grade college. In either case, he added that if possible the Kumara Park building might be used for the location of a residential college for women especially because it had extensive grounds which could be made use of by the girls for sports.

No. 205.—Preference to be given to women of required qualifications for appointments as in the case of candidates of backward classes and depressed classes.

Mrs. D. Sakamma, Special Interests.

MRS. D. SAKAMMA requested that Government be pleased to direct that in respect of all appointments under Government, women candidates of required qualifications should be given the same preference as the backward classes and depressed classes were given.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL stated that as a general question the proposal was beset with practical difficulties, and enquired whether, for instance, lady applicants would be prepared to take up appointment as Police Inspectors.

MRS. D. SAKAMMA had no objection to those appointments also being given provided the lady candidates selected were well qualified for them. She had heard that in other countries women were being appointed even in the Police

Department and if that was so, there was no reason why the same thing should not be done in Mysore also. But apart from that, in moving this representation, she said she had in view the ordinary clerical posts in offices including the Secretariat. If a certain number of qualified women were appointed as clerks, it would have the effect of materially encouraging women's education. At present, there were a number of lady graduates who had not been absorbed in Government service.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that, as a rule, education should not be sought for by women with the object of securing appointments in public service.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL added that, as far as possible, qualified lady candidates were being appointed as was evident from the increase in the number of appointments held by them in the Education Department in recent years.

MRS. KAMALAMMA DASAPPA pointed out that a few appointments given to women in one particular department of Government would not satisfy all the requirements of the case. Educated women were aspiring for a representation even on the Executive Council of His Highness. In fact, the speaker had sent up a resolution in this behalf for discussion at the previous session of the Assembly but it was not reached for want of time.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA, in supporting the representation, observed that women were quite capable of doing office work efficiently. In fact, in Western countries, women were preferred to men for appointments in Government departments as well as in commercial houses. It might be that the Education Department had absorbed some of them. But the representation under consideration was that they might be employed in other departments also. For instance, there was typing work and lady typists and steno-typists could as well be employed wherever possible in all departments.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL pointed out that even now there was nothing to prevent the appointment of lady typists and steno-typists and that as a matter of fact a few had been employed in some Government offices.

No. 200.—Preparation of supplementary voters' lists for the ensuing Representative Assembly and Legislative Council elections as changes may have occurred in the qualification of voters since the lists were last prepared.

Mr. N. Channappa, Gubbi Taluk.

MR. N. CHANNAPPA represented that since the preparation of voters' lists, many changes had occurred in the qualifi-

cation of voters in various ways and hence he prayed that supplementary voters' lists be prepared for the ensuing elections to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the lists prepared already were current even now and if any additions and alterations were called for in respect of them and information was given in that regard, necessary action might be taken notifying them.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA wanted that Government should take needful action in the matter instead of expecting voters and candidates to furnish information.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that that was not possible in view of shortness of time. However, in view of the fact that the time allowed to candidates and voters for communicating additions and alterations had expired, Government would be glad to extend it and to see that all such additions and alterations were made.

MESSRS. M. C. LINGE GOWDA and L. VEMA REDDY did not know what difficulty there was in republishing the lists already prepared with the necessary changes. After all, the cost on account of printing would not come to anything very much.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA pointed out that if the list was not brought up-to-date and republished in its entirety, the information contained might not at all be reliable. For instance, so many persons had become graduates subsequent to the preparation of the voters' lists. In some cases property might have been sold away and consequently, the erstwhile owner would have ceased to be qualified to vote. And if such irregularities were allowed, there might be scope for contesting the very validity of the elections and the parties might have to go to court to get decisions, and necessity might even arise for holding re-elections. For all these reasons, he thought it better to republish the voters' lists with the necessary changes, on the Government's own initiative.

THE DEWAN replied that the preparation of a fresh list would entail much cost and it did not also appear to be necessary. However, as already stated, necessary additions and alterations would be made if brought to notice.

No. 64.—Prohibition of animal sacrifice before temples.
Mr. S. Ramappa, Srinivasapur.

MR. S. RAMAPPA prayed that legislation be enacted for the prohibition of animal sacrifice before temples.

THE DEWAN did not think that there was any necessity for legislation. Animal sacrifice was not being done before muzrai temples, and even in others, it was slowly disappearing. And where it existed, it was better to allow public opinion to develop and discourage it than resort to legislation.

No. 65.—Amendment of Press Law.
Mr. G. Girimaji Rao, Kolar Taluk.

MR. G. GIRIMAJI RAO prayed that the Press Law be amended very early. He pointed out that Government were promising to amend the law for many years past and enquired when it would be done.

THE DEWAN replied that in Mysore nobody was put to much inconvenience by the Press Law and that it was working less vigorously than in British India.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA enquired if the Government of Mysore had any manner of check over the outside press.

THE DEWAN replied that the Princes' Protection Act was quite enough for the purpose.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA reminded the Government of their oft-repeated promise to draft a new Bill omitting the more stringent of the provisions of the existing Press Law and regretted that it should not have seen the light of day.

THE DEWAN pointed out that if the present Press Law, which was considered to be too drastic, remained in force, Government would hesitate to apply it to any case, whereas if it was made less drastic it might be used more frequently. He therefore thought that it would be better, perhaps, to put up with the existing evil.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA said that if the draft Bill was published, the public at large would be in a position to judge which of the two would be better. He added that the Press Law disfigured the fair name of Mysore which called itself a Model State.

THE DEWAN replied that a Press Law was an absolute necessity for any Government.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA observed that if that was so a separate Bill might be brought up, as promised, with less drastic provisions.

THE DEWAN replied that he would consider about it.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, who spoke next, observed that whenever the question of amendment of the Press Law was brought before the Government, they were consistently saying that the matter was under consideration.

Instead of that, if the Government had once for all said that they were not in sympathy with the representations, members would have dropped the question in despair. Because they were saying that they would make some changes in the existing law and introduce a new Bill, everybody was hoping that something better was in store for the country. They eagerly looked for the new Bill but it had not seen the light of day. Not only that; the attitude of Government as shown in the course of these discussions was such as to cause disappointment in the minds of members. The Press Law was something like the sword of Democles, hanging over the head of all independent and bold pressmen. That was the reason why a sufficient number of capable men were not coming forward to edit papers within the State. For whatever information the people were getting at present, they were indebted to papers coming from outside the State. If any bold writings appeared in the local press, the authorities would try their best to snub the editors, with the result that, under the present circumstances, there was no possibility of any independent press to thrive. Outside papers containing bold writings enjoyed a large circulation within the State and the local papers consequently suffered. Instead of allowing such a sorry state of affairs to continue, it would be well if Government gave a certain amount of latitude to local papers to have their say for what it might be worth. There need be no fear that in the absence of a Press Law, newspapers would indulge in libellous articles, because the Indian Penal Code gave the authorities sufficient power to deal with them in any manner they thought fit. But on account of that fear, why should Government prevent newspapers from saying whatever they felt about men and matters? This would incidentally act as a corrective even to Government on occasions. Why should they forego that? Want of such correctives would place a premium upon immorality, encourage corruption and allow things to drift and rot from year to year and from decade to decade. The Dewan who had recently visited European countries once again had been pleased to say that every country had its own Press Law. But the speaker would ask whether any administration in those countries had a Press Law under which they could kill any paper and forfeit all its property. One Mussolini or Hitler could perhaps do so, but was it the ambition of the State of Mysore to follow such examples? It was not always correct to think that Governments alone could do the right things and others were incapable of it.

Even in British India the Press Act had practically been repealed but because of the political developments there, the Government of India had introduced ordinances for the time being. After all, it was not possible to weigh words and then use them, and there might be more than one opinion on any particular subject. But that was not a sufficient reason to perpetuate a law to which the bulk of the people were opposed. It had been recognised by the Dewan himself in his opening speech that that law was the best law which was consented to by the thinking people. In that view he appealed to the Government to give scope to the subjects of the State even to make mistakes and thereby learn to do better in future.

THE DEWAN enquired whether the speaker himself would be prepared to support if Mysore proposed to adopt the Press Law in force in British India.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR replied that that should not be the policy of the Mysore State. On the other hand, it would be up to it to copy whatever was good in other administrations, leaving out all bad things.

THE DEWAN enquired who should judge which was good and which was bad.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR replied that it was for that very purpose that the Representative Assembly had been established. And because the Assembly was not in favour of this law, it would be an act of generosity on the part of Government and confidence in the public if they would graciously consent to repeal it. If they were not prepared to do it at once, they might even suspend it for a stated period just to try whether anything untoward was going to result from it, and if everything remained well they might abolish it once for all. Then and then alone, would the Government get a fair name and the country would prosper.

No. 66.—Retention of the Breach of Contract Act in the taluks of Chikmagalur, Mudgere, Koppa and Tarikere.

Messrs. Mir Mahomed Sahib and Settara Siddappa, Tarikere Taluk and V. R. Mudveeriah, Tarikere Municipality.

MR. MIR MAHOMED SAHIB prayed that, as the repeal of the Breach of Contract Act would cause great hardship to planters as well as labourers, the said Act be retained at least in the taluks of Chikmagalur, Mudgere, Koppa and Tarikere as in the case of the Kolar Gold Fields, or some other penal clause be substituted.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that, according to the wishes of the members of the Assembly, the Regula-

tion had been repealed. There was no question of its retention in the Kolar Gold Fields or anywhere else. And the Act having just been repealed, it was not expedient to have in its place another penal legislation.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY requested Government at least to provide some sort of restrictions against labourers taking heavy advances and running away.

THE DEWAN replied that it was not possible to do anything in the matter.

No. 67.—Introduction of Agriculturists Relief Act.

Messrs. S. Venkataswami Gowda, Malur Taluk and G. Girimaji Rao, Kolar Taluk.

MR. S. VENKATASWAMI GOWDA prayed that the Agriculturists Relief Act be introduced in all the taluks in the State in which the Record of Rights Scheme was in operation, with a view to improve the condition of the agriculturists who had been hard hit by the fall in prices of food grains and by the heavy rate of interest charged by the money-lenders.

MR. B. GOPALA CHAR requested that the Act be extended to the malnad also where the economic condition of the raiyats was very bad.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA said that there would be no harm in extending the Act to all the taluks.

THE DEWAN replied that the question had been referred to the High Court and their opinion was awaited.

No. 68.—Amendment of Section 8 of the Mysore Agriculturists Relief Act.

Messrs. T. S. Venkappa and G. Channappa Setty, Sagar Taluk.

MR. T. S. VENKAPPA prayed that Section 8 of the Mysore Agriculturists Relief Act might be suitably amended as the provision in respect of production of all the account registers from the beginning of each transaction in connection with suits filed under the Act was causing considerable hardship to the parties.

MESSRS. B. GOPALA CHAR and G. GIRIMAJI RAO opposed the representation and said that the very object of the Act would be frustrated if the Section was amended.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the Section was intended to empower the court to scrutinise transactions from the beginning; and if such a vital Section was not enforced, the Act itself would be of no benefit whatever.

THE DEWAN added that the request could not be complied with.

No. 69.—Introduction of legislation for amending the Mysore District Board Regulation, the Village Panchayet Regulation and the Municipal Regulation, for making provision for opening all tanks, wells, roads, markets, etc., to all classes of people.

Mr. G. Channappa, Holalkere Taluk.

(The representation was reserved for consideration along with certain resolutions concerning the same subject.)

No. 70.—Reduction of the price of copying sheets or grant of permission to type the sheets on both sides.

Mr. S. Thontarya, Devanhalli Taluk.

MR. S. THONTARYA represented that at present the price of copying sheets had been raised from 2 annas to 3 annas, and each typewritten sheet contained only 4 or 5 lines, each line consisting of a very few words. As parties were put to much loss on this account, he prayed either that the price per sheet be reduced to 2 annas or that instructions be issued to the effect that the matter to be copied be typed on both sides.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that all that the parties were concerned with was the number of words and not the number of copying sheets. A typed page naturally contained more words than a manuscript sheet; and so, when the system of granting typewritten copies was introduced, the price of a copying sheet was raised to 3 annas. But there was actually no additional expenditure so far as the parties were concerned because, while the number of English words on a handwritten sheet would not exceed 100, a typed page would contain not less than 150 words.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA brought to notice that too much space was being left blank at the top and the portion actually taken up for typewriting was very small.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA brought to notice that the facing sheet in the case of judgment and decree copies was too long on account of the fact that entries in respect of the date of application for grant of the copy, the date of preparation, the person who copied it, the date of issue and so on, were all made on only one side of the paper. He suggested that as in British India some of these headings might as well be printed on the back of the sheet so that it would be possible to reduce the sheet to a convenient size. As regards the number of words to be typed on each sheet, he thought that 250 words should be permitted.

MR. MAHOMED SAIT saw no reason why the sheets should be ruled when the matter was going to be typewritten. If ruling was given up, the cost of printing would be substantially reduced.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that all these suggestions would be gone into.

*At this stage, the House adjourned for lunch and re-assembled at 3-30 p.m.*

No. 132.—Construction of a bridge across the Shimsha.
Mr. H. K. Madaiya, Malvalli Taluk.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA represented that in connection with the construction of a bridge across the Shimsha River between Kadanhalli and Banasamudra on the Bangalore-Mysore road *via* Bannur and Malvalli, a number of interpellations and resolutions were being sent up for some time past, but so far the work had not been taken up by Government. The District Board were unable to take up the work for want of funds. For want of a bridge, traffic on the road was impossible during the rainy season and a number of people were being drowned year after year while crossing the river.

THE DEWAN observed that estimates had been received and the scheme was under consideration.

No. 71.—Abolition of Special Magistrates' Courts.
Mr. N. Ramaiya, Chikballapur Taluk.

MR. N. RAMAIYA represented that, in the past, Amildars had magisterial powers. Since those powers had been withdrawn and Special Magistrates appointed, the litigant public were experiencing great inconvenience. To obviate this, it was desirable to abolish the Special Magistrates' Courts and to establish Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts in important places, with jurisdiction over one, two or three taluks as the case may be. Such an arrangement would not involve Government in any additional expenditure, while at the same time it would afford better facilities to the litigant public.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the experiment had been tried in one or two places, but the result was found to be that both the magisterial and the civil work suffered. The High Court also were of the opinion that the experiment did not work very satisfactorily. How best the arrangements could be improved was however engaging the attention of both Government and the High Court.

MR. N. RAMAIYA said that in the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, and in some other places in British India, Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts were working quite satisfactorily.

CAPT. Y. V. AYYA was of the opinion that at least such of the Special Magistrates' Courts as had not enough work might be abolished and Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts opened instead.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the whole question was being examined by the Government.

MR. T. MARIAPPA said that Nagamangala was originally under the jurisidiction of the Seringapatam Court, but some time back, it was transferred to that of the Mandya Court. The old arrangement was more convenient to the litigant public and should be reverted to even now. Otherwise he suggested that the Magistrate at French Rocks should be made a Munsiff-Magistrate.

MR. G. GIRIMAJI RAO said that, in the Kolar District, there were 5 Magistrates and 3 Munsiffs; and in some places there were only Magistrates and in others only Munsiffs. This was not convenient to a very large section of the litigant public. He thought that the foregoing representations would result in expeditious disposal of work and suggested that the experiment might be tried.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the High Court were so far not in favour of the proposal but that the entire question was still under examination.

MR. N. G. SANJIVIAH was of the opinion that Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts would any day be better than the present arrangement. He did not know when and why the High Court expressed themselves against the suggestion. Poor litigants were undergoing many inconveniences under the present arrangement. The proposed experiment was worth trying at least in some more important centres.

MR. SANNAGUNDAPPA said that it would be a great convenience to the raiyats if there was a Munsiff-Magistrate's Court in every taluk. But as it was not possible due to financial reasons, at least there might be one such court for every two taluks. At present, the raiyat had to waste much time and money in prosecuting civil and criminal cases, and could not pay undivided attention to agriculture which was his sole occupation.

THE DEWAN enquired whether entrusting magisterial work to Assistant Commissioners would in any way improve matters.

The Assembly as a whole was definitely opposed to the proposal.

MR. PUTTASWAMI GOWDA was not in favour of combining civil and magisterial powers at any rate so far as the

lower courts were concerned. If that was done the officer presiding over the court of trial might have formed his own opinions about the parties to a civil court as well as about the witnesses, and those opinions might influence his decisions in subsequent criminal cases also. Secondly, the suggestion would result in an increase in the number of courts; and the greater the number of courts the more would be the number of cases instituted, resulting in still heavier expenditure and loss to the people who were already poor. It was best that courts of law were as few and far away as possible.

He was also of the opinion that itinerant courts which were inconvenient to the raiyats and very expensive to Government should be abolished.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the Government were also of the same opinion.

MR. PUTTASWAMI GOWDA represented that the Bench Courts should also be abolished.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR said that the Lawyers' Conference which discussed the subject at great length had resolved that combined courts should be opened in some more places as an experiment. But, while the conference had gone to the extent of suggesting that there should be one Munsiff-Magistrate for each taluk, he would be satisfied with having one court established for every two taluks. Such an arrangement would facilitate quick disposal of cases and relieve the people of much inconvenience and heavy expenditure.

It was no doubt true that originally the High Court were not in favour of combined courts. But latterly, Munsiff-Magistrate's Courts had been opened in a few places and so far as he knew, they were working satisfactorily. Therefore the scheme might be further extended now.

He agreed that sometimes a judge presiding over a combined court might be influenced, while trying a criminal case, by opinions formed in the course of a civil case heard by himself already; but that was not an insurmountable difficulty so far as the parties were concerned. The main point for consideration was that at present the parties were being put to heavy expenditure and it was the duty of the Government to establish courts at short distances. Government were making a profit of nearly 3 to 4 lakhs from the administration of justice. If it was possible for them to open both civil and criminal courts in each taluk, they might do so, but financial conditions might not warrant such a procedure for some time to come. In the meanwhile, however, the

courts might at least be redistributed in the manner suggested in the representation.

MR. A. M. VENKATASWAMAIYA who spoke against the representation thought that the starting of more courts and granting of additional facilities would unnecessasily encourage litigation and entail additional expenditure on the part of Government on account of a need for additional Judges in the High Court.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA was in entire agreement with the views expressed by Mr. Bhashyam Aiyangar.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that a report of the discussions on the subject would be referred to the High Court.

No. 72.—Amending the form of *vakalat*.

Messrs. Sorappa and Marale Gowda, Sira Taluk; and Chowdri Abdul Razak, Sira Municipality.

MR. SORAPPA represented that in the *vakalats* given to lawyers by parties, the lawyers were empowered not merely to appear on behalf of the parties, and argue cases, but also to receive the decree amounts. As many of the clients were illiterate, they did not know that they should amend the *vakalat* so as to prevent the lawyers from receiving monies. It was therefore necessary that the High Court should be requested to issue orders to the lawyers not to handle their clients' monies and to amend the form of *vakalat* accordingly.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that orders had already been issued in this behalf.

No. 73.—Establishing a Special Magistrate's Court at Sira with powers to take up both civil and criminal cases.

Messrs. Sorappa and Marale Gowda, Sira Taluk; and Chowdri Abdul Razak, Sira Municipality.

MR. SORAPPA represented that as the number of cases of Sira Taluk in the Special Magistrate's Court and the Munsiff's Court at Madhugiri was very large, the Munsiff at Madhugiri might be invested with magisterial powers and given jurisdiction of both civil and criminal cases of Madhugiri and Pavagada and that the Special First Class Magistrate's Court at Madhugiri be transferred to Sira, the Magistrate there being empowered to take up both civil and criminal cases of the taluk.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that Government had obtained from the High Court full information relating to this question and found that the number of cases did not warrant the additional cost that would be necessary

to give effect to the suggestion contained in the representation. The Madhugiri Court would have 543 original, 729 small cause and 302 criminal suits, while the court at Sira would get only 186 original, 197 small cause and 83 criminal suits per year, and as such it was not possible to accept the suggestion.

No. 74.—Entry of court attachments of immovable properties in the Sub-Registrar's books.

Mr. M. P. Somasekhara Rao, Bangalore City Municipality.

The fact of attachment of an immovable property by a court cannot be easily discovered by an intending purchaser and hence there is great scope for fraud. It is therefore prayed that the law be amended so as to require that the attaching creditor should, in order to validate the attachment, get the fact of such attachment entered in the Sub-Registrar's books as if it were an encumbrance.

No. 75.—Forwardal of copies of orders directing distraint of immovable properties or of release thereof, passed by civil courts, to Sub-Registry offices.

Messrs. A. Narayana Iyengar, Hassan Taluk, and H. Basappa and K. Narasimhasetty, Arsikere Taluk.

Judgment debtors were alienating, by sale, etc., immovable properties which had been distrained by civil courts, to third parties, as the latter would be unaware of the distraints. MR. NARAYANA IYENGAR represented that in order to safeguard the interests of the alienees, a copy of the distraint order as well as a copy of the order releasing the distraint might be ordered to be sent to the office of the Sub-Registrar having jurisdiction.

(At this stage, the next representation was also taken up.)

No. 76.—Intimation of the articles attached by the civil courts to be sent to the Sub-Registrar's office for registry.

Mr. Bhupalam Nanjundaiya, Hosadurga Taluk.

MR. BHUPALAM NANJUNDAIYA prayed that as people were being duped and put to serious loss by not knowing or having intimation of immovable articles attached by the civil courts, the fact of attachment, as soon as it was done by the civil courts, might be intimated to the concerned Sub-Registrar's office so that it might be registered in that office for the information of the public.

MR. M. P. SOMASEKHARA RAO represented that as the fact of attachment of an immovable property by a court

could not be easily discovered by an intending purchaser, there was great scope for fraud and that therefore the law be amended so as to require that the attaching creditor should, in order to validate the attachment, get the fact of such an attachment entered in the Sub-Registrar's books as if it were an encumbrance.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that if an entry about attachment was made in the Sub-Registrar's books, entries relating to the subsequent stages would also become necessary. Otherwise, the record would not be complete. The High Court were of the opinion that all this would involve too much clerical labour, the advantage to parties thereby being merely illusory.

MR. M. P. SOMASEKHARA RAO said that it would be sufficient even if the fact of a civil court attachment alone was mentioned in the Sub-Registrar's books; so far as the subsequent transactions like release, etc., were concerned, it would be the duty of the persons interested to ascertain information. But if attachment itself was not mentioned, there would be absolutely no indication whatever to the intending purchaser or others that a particular property had been encumbered.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that, as had been pointed out by the High Court, an order of attachment was only an interim order and could not subsist for any appreciable length of time.

MR. M. P. SOMASEKHARA RAO said that he did not agree that, though only an interim order, an order of attachment could not subsist for any appreciable length of time; as a matter of fact, even if a property was attached, it would take years together for actually seeing the auction through, because there might be a number of objections to be disposed of in the meanwhile. If in the interval the property was sold away, the purchaser stood to suffer. But if the fact of attachment was entered in the Sub-Registrar's books, it would dissuade a third party from purchasing the property and all further complications would be averted.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the suggestion applied to civil court attachments and enquired whether the same handicaps did not exist in the case of attachments by revenue officers for arrears of land revenue.

MR. M. P. SOMASEKHARA RAO replied that the disposal of such cases would not take long. And MR. H. C. DASAPPA added that land revenue was the first charge on any property and was bound to be paid by anybody, and so nobody could

possibly have any grievance on that account. Besides, information relating to payment or non-payment of land revenue was certainly more easily ascertainable than information relating to civil court attachments. In fact it was the duty of everybody to ascertain if land revenue was due, and if so to pay it.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL however replied that, as stated previously, Government were not in favour of the change suggested.

MESSRS. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, T. MARIAPPA and H. C. DASAPPA pressed for a sympathetic consideration of the question.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that for creating this additional facility, additional staff would become necessary and the parties would have to pay for it.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA said that no one would grudge to make a small payment in that behalf provided that the Government did not make that a source of additional revenue. And since the public were prepared to bear this additional cost, he requested the Government to refer the whole question once again to the High Court for a reconsideration of their opinion.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR did not believe that any inconvenience would be caused to any one, including the civil courts, by adopting the suggestion. When the court ordered the attachment of a property, it could, while granting a copy of the order to the party, also send another copy to the concerned Sub-Registrar to make the necessary entries in his books. And even if additional expenditure was called for on account of this additional facility and parties had to pay for it, he said that in the case of an attachment, it might be levied from the party who took the order for it, and in the case of a release, from the party getting it.

THE DEWAN agreed to consult the High Court on the matter.

No. 77.—Reduction of court fee in respect of plaints presented to civil courts.

Messrs. A. Narayana Iyengar, Hassan Taluk; H. Basappa and Kolla Narasimha Setty, Arsikere Taluk; A. V. Suryanarayana Setty and H. M. Dyavappa Gowda, Arkalgud Taluk.

MR. A. NARAYANA IYENGAR represented that court fees were enhanced during war time when prices were ruling high. But now owing to the present economic depression, the poorer people who were hit harder than others were unable to pay the enhanced rate of 10 per cent and it was very necessary to reduce it to the former rate of 7½ per cent.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL asked if the members would be prepared to pay at the Madras rates both for small cause and other suits.

MR. A. NARAYANA IYENGAR said that the existence of higher rates elsewhere was no consolation to the hard-hit raiyats in Mysore. So, whatever the rate in Madras, it was very necessary to reduce the rates in Mysore. If this was done, there was every chance of an increase in the number of cases and consequent increase in revenue to Government. At present, owing to the high rate of stamp fees, many people had not filed suits.

MR. T. S. VENKATAPPA said that in Bombay the rates had been reduced to the pre-war level.

In supporting the representation, MR. H. C. DASAPPA said that rightly speaking, the Government should not take any fees from the people for getting justice, as they were paying *kandayam* and other taxes. But as that was not practicable, some fee was necessary. To make that a source of profit, however, was quite unjustifiable. At present, the Government were making a profit of 3 to 4 lakhs of rupees a year from Courts of Law. The representation did not ask for any extraordinary concession. And if Government did not think it practicable to accede to the representation in its entirety, it was absolutely necessary that at least for cases involving Rs. 2,500 and below, the rate was reduced to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Government did not stand to lose much thereby; on the other hand, the revenue would increase.

MR. M. S. LINGE GOWDA expressed the same views.

MR. H. B. GUNDAPPA who also spoke in support of the representation wanted a reduction of court fees in all cases irrespective of the amount involved.

Khan Bahadur MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN, and MESSRS. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR and L. VEMA REDDY strongly supported the representation in view of the plight in which the raiyats found themselves at present.

MR. G. MALLANNA represented that in addition to reducing the rate of court fee stamps, Government should also order the reduction of lawyers' fees from 5 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MR. B. L. BYANNA said that if a general reduction was not possible, at least in uncontested cases the rate might be reduced to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MR. Y. K. CHANNAVEERAPPA said that when the rates were enhanced, the reason given was that it was required to meet the extra expenditure necessary for opening new courts.

But in fact, the department was making a profit of 3 to 4 lakhs which could not be justified.

MR. B. OOSMAN KHAN, in opposing the representation, said that during the Dewanship of Sir M. Visvesvaraya the Assembly itself had given support to enhance the rate of stamp fees. And when the question of allowing the parties to pay half the court fee stamps at the time of instituting suits and the other half at the time of framing issues came up, the Assembly itself opposed it. He did not see any reason for a reduction of the rates now. In spite of the clamour that there was economic depression and financial stringency, the number of cases had not decreased, and this showed that the existing rates were not working as a hardship on the litigant public. After all, a money-lender who sought the help of a court to recover outstanding amounts did not grudge to pay a small amount to the court. The 10 per cent about which members were complaining was not the rate of court fees payable in all cases; it applied only up to Rs. 1,000; as the value of the suits increased, stamp fees payable were less.

MR. H. R. KRISHNAMURTHYACHAR said that many suits had not been filed owing to the fact that the stamp fee was very high.

MR. KIRGAVAL IBRAHIM KHAN also supported the representation. In this connection, he said that at present certain money-lenders were levying interest at 12 to 40 per cent on sums lent by them and that Government should take steps to effectively prevent this. No doubt they had passed the Usurious Loans Regulation to prevent such heavy rates, but it was merely on paper. He requested the Government strictly to enforce it.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that it was not possible to say that any particular rate could be called a just rate. However, this much could boldly be asserted that compared with the rates in other provinces, the rates prevailing in the State were not high; and there was the additional facility that in all uncontested cases, refund of half the court costs was being allowed. Considering these things, it might be said that the rates were not weighing heavily on the litigant public. And even apart from that, the present budget position did not warrant any sacrifice of revenue.

A large number of members however repeatedly urged that at least in respect of particular classes of cases, some relief must be given.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL thereupon observed that the question would be further examined.

No. 155.—Erection of a Central Radio Station in Bangalore City. Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar, Special Interests.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR represented that a radio station be erected in Bangalore City and receiving sets with loud speakers installed in as many villages as possible. He said that this was a subject which appealed to one and all and would have the support of the entire House. The cry of the present day was "Back to the villages." The villages must be improved and then alone the country as a whole could progress. That was what the Dewan Sahib said on one of the previous occasions and it was the view of one and all. At present the villages were being deserted and people were flocking to the towns and cities. Special effort was necessary to attract them back to the villages. The installation of radio sets in the villages would serve this object in view, as well as to disseminate knowledge on all topics of current interest. The raiyats could work on their fields for the better part of the day and thereafter they could enjoy good music, or hear fine lectures and find such other innocent recreation with an educative value. Newspapers reached the villages rather late and it would be possible, with the help of the radio, to broadcast all important news quickly. The cost would not be more than Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000. The Government might erect a central station and the local bodies might purchase their own receiving sets.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA opposed the proposal and said that raiyats in the rural parts were starving without food and were also ill-clothed. The month of March was again approaching and they were already getting anxious about the payment of *kandayam*. This was not the time for the Government or the local bodies to spend a huge sum on a radio station and receiving sets.

MR. M. S. LINGE GOWDA supported the representation and said that the villages were enjoying the benefits of electricity in various ways. But the raiyats still continued to be steeped in ignorance. What progress radio had made in western countries was yet a sealed book to the raiyats. If the representation was granted, instructions could be sent to the very door of the villages in times of epidemics, for example, as to what action they should take. Various other advantages and conveniences for which they would have otherwise to pay heavily could be enjoyed with the help of the radio as already explained by the mover. And in this view the amount of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 was well worth spending.

Khan Bahadur MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN, MR. BAGALNE DEVA GOWDA, MR. L. VEMA REEDY and a large number of other Members spoke in favour of the suggestion.

THE DEWAN informed the House that the proposal was under consideration.

No. 156.—Reduction of electrical charges to original rates for house connections.

Messrs. B. L. Byanna, Bangalore City Municipality; B. M. Muniswamappa, Bangalore Taluk; K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar, Special Interests; Y. K. Channaveerappa, Devanhalli Municipality; S. Thontarya, Devanhalli Taluk; Veerasanjive Gowda, Closepet Taluk; P. Subbarama Chetty, Special Interests.

MR. B. L. BYANNA represented that originally the rate per unit of electric power for house installations was 2½ annas, but owing to rise of prices of electrical goods during the war time, it was raised to 4 annas. The price of electrical goods had now gone down considerably, but the rates were not reduced to the original level. He therefore requested that the rates be reduced to the original level. If this was done, he added, the department would not incur any loss since the number of installations was sure to increase.

MR. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY also expressed the view that the Government would not suffer any loss of income on account of the reduction of rates. At present, power was being supplied to shops at the rate of one anna per unit for purposes of advertisement and decoration, and this had encouraged a number of shop-keepers to consume power. Similarly if the rate was reduced in the case of house connections also, the number of installations would surely increase. At present, many had not taken connections owing to the heavy cost. The reduction was called for on the additional ground that poor villagers could not pay for electric lights anything more than what they were spending on their kerosine lamps.

CAPT. Y. V. AYYA said that even in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore, many people were using kerosine lights in their houses and so their eye-sight as well as general health was suffering much; it was necessary to enable them to live comfortably. When for purposes of advertisement and show rooms one anna per unit was charged, he did not see any reason why the rate should not be reduced to 2½ annas in the case of house installations.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA represented that for illumination purposes, power should be supplied at a cheaper rate to temples and even private buildings and shops.

THE DEWAN observed that the question of supplying power at concession rates for purposes of illumination and advertisement would be considered and that this concession would apply to temples as well as to private buildings and shops. He added, however, that in the case of house connections, it was not possible to reduce the rate as Government would stand to lose heavily thereby. Even a reduction of 6 pies per unit would mean a loss of about a lakh of rupees.

MR. H. C. DASAPPA requested that the concessions referred to should not be confined to particular occasions only but should be available throughout the year.

THE DEWAN promised to consider the matter.

CAPT. Y. V. AYYA represented that the grant of concessions to the poorer people as mentioned in the representation was a more urgent question than illuminating domes and shopwindows.

Rao Sahib M. RAMASWAMI said that the matter was being represented to the Government for several years past. If the rates were reduced, the number of installations would increase and with it the revenue to Government, and this applied to villages as well as to towns. So, just as in the villages, he wanted that the rates should be reduced in towns and cities also. At present all the power generated was not being consumed. Instead of allowing any portion of it to go to waste, it would be more economical to supply it to the people even at cheap rates and get a return from all the power generated.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the suggestion would involve the State in a heavy loss, at the rate of a lakh of rupees for every half anna foregone, and if the rate was reduced to 2½ annas per unit, there would have to be a 60 per cent increase in the number of installations to realise the present income.

Rao Sahib M. RAMASWAMI said that the rate might not be lowered all on a sudden, but might be done gradually.

MR. RAMACHANDRA RAO SINDIA requested that the rate in the cities might be reduced to at least 3 annas per unit immediately.

MR. V. VENKATAPPA repeated that the rates for consumption of power in the villages should be reduced. At present, the raiyats had to pay 8 annas per light. For 3 lights, they would have to pay Rs. 1-8-0 whereas in the cities one could use about 8 to 10 lights by paying Rs. 1-11-0.

MR. SIDDALINGA DEVARU said that the rate might be reduced and the experiment tried for one year. He was sure that the departmental income would not suffer; on the other hand, it would increase. By reducing the rate, Government would also induce many more people to go in for power.

THE DEWAN observed that for the present, the question of reduction of rates in the villages might be considered, the case of towns and cities being taken up later on.

*At this stage, the Assembly rose for the day to meet again at 12 noon the next day.*